

Presented by Dublin Dance Festival
and Bord Gáis Energy Theatre

CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE OF TAIWAN 13 TONGUES

Irish Premiere

Bord Gáis Energy Theatre
Tues 14 & Wed 15 May, 7:30pm

DUBLIN
DANCE
FESTIVAL

14-25
MAY
2024

ABOUT THE PERFORMANCE

Enter an exquisite and fantastical world as the astonishing Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan returns to Dublin Dance Festival and Bord Gáis Energy Theatre to open Dublin Dance Festival's 2024 Edition.

13 Tongues brings to life Artistic Director CHENG Tsung-lung's cherished childhood memories of the sights, sounds and vitality of Taipei's historic Bangka district. Cheng's inspiration stems from his mother's tales of "Thirteen Tongues," the renowned 1960s street artist and storyteller, who masterfully conjured up Bangka's many characters in his vivid performances.

Beginning and ending with the sound of a single hand bell, the evocative musical score interweaves Taiwanese folk songs, Taoist chant, and electronica to bring us on a journey from the ancient to the contemporary. Amidst light projections of brilliant colours, shapes, and images, the Cloud Gate dancers perform with astounding control, fluidity and grace. Together, they create an immersive and exhilarating representation of Bangka's bustling street life, bridging generations of behaviours and beliefs.

ABOUT CLOUD GATE DANCE THEATRE OF TAIWAN

Cloud Gate is the name of the oldest known dance in China. In 1973, choreographer LIN Hwai-min adopted this classical name and founded the first contemporary dance company in the greater Chinese-speaking community. In 2020, CHENG Tsung-lung succeeded LIN as the company's Artistic Director.

Cloud Gate has set out to engage with local history, culture and subject matter and draws on classical, folk and modern dance from both the western and Asian traditions. Its dancers receive training in meditation; Qi Gong, an ancient breathing exercise; internal martial arts; modern dance; and ballet. Under the leadership of CHENG, the training has expanded to more dancing styles, such as street dance. Manifesting in choreographies, the company transforms ancient aesthetics into a thrilling and modern celebration of motion.

Cloud Gate has toured worldwide with frequent engagements at the Next Wave Festival in New York, the Sadler's Wells Theatre in London, the Moscow Chekhov International Theatre Festival in Russia, the Movimentos International Dance Festival and the Internationales Tanzfest NRW, then directed by Pina Bausch in Germany. The international press acclaims the company as "Asia's leading contemporary dance theatre" (The Times), and "One of the best dance companies in the world" (FAZ). Cloud Gate is also honoured as the "Outstanding Company" for the 2018 National Dance Awards, UK.

CREDITS

Choreography

Performers

CHENG Tsung-lung

CHAN Pui-pui, CHEN Lien-wei, CHOU Chen-yeh, FAN Chia-hsuan, HUANG Lu-kai, HUANG Mei-ya, HUANG Yen-cheng, LEE Tzu-chun, SHAO Hsing-wen, YEH Po-sheng, YEN Hsueh-hsin

Music

Art Design

Lighting Design

Projection Design

Costume Design

Voice Coach

LIM Giong

HO Chia-hsing

SHEN Po-hung

WANG Ethan

LIN Bing-hao

TSAI Pao-chang

Commissioned by National Performing Arts Center – National Theater & Concert Hall

Total running time is 65 minutes (no interval).

THANKS & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cloud Gate Dance Theatre of Taiwan:

DDF: We are very grateful for the support of Bord Gáis Energy Theatre and the Taipei Representative Office in Ireland in bringing *13 Tongues* to Dublin as part of our 2024 Edition. DDF would also like to thank our funders, sponsors, partners, DDF Friends and Volunteers who are listed on our [website](#).

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